

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

The Swift House

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Chicago Urban League Headquarters

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 4500 South Michigan Avenue

CITY, TOWN Chicago

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st (Ralph Metcalf)

STATE Illinois

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Cook

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The Chicago Urban League

STREET & NUMBER 4500 South Michigan Avenue

CITY, TOWN Chicago

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Cook County Building

STREET & NUMBER 118 North Clark Street

CITY, TOWN Chicago,

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Illinois Historic Structures Survey

DATE 1972-74

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Illinois Department of Conservation/Historic Sites Division

CITY, TOWN Springfield

STATE

Illinois

74 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Swift House is built of grey granite laid up in rustic face with alternate wide and narrow stones cut true and square. The overall design is heavily influenced by the work of H. H. Richardson and is devoid of classically derived ornament. The exterior ornamentation is limited to turned stone columns with typical 19th Century carved capitals, clean cut stone dentil work at the roof cornice line and at the second floor level, and, some carved relief work in the north and south stone gable ends. Windows are primarily double hung although those on the first floor have a fixed upper sash which is smaller than the lower movable portion. The house originally had a flat tile or slate roof which has been replaced with a composition shingle roof. Except for the roof, which has been handled nicely, the exterior of the house is virtually intact as built.

The coach house to the west of the property was added 25 years after the main building was constructed. It is built in a manner very sympathetic to the original although the stone courses are generally smaller and the second floor was sheathed in wood.

The interior of the Swift house remains today as it was built. The principle rooms, halls, and stairs are paneled in oak with carved ornament basically the same as that used on the exterior but at a smaller scale. Some evidence of classical influence can be seen in the interior ornamentation but the major elements are original and tastefully done. Most of the six major fireplaces have their fire boxes covered to avoid heat loss, but they are intact. Some rooms have been subdivided to provide offices for a large resident staff serving the present owners and the community. The various entrances have been revised to meet current safety and Building Code requirements. No irreversible changes have been made to the house and it could be restored to original condition should that be desired in the future.

The Swift building has served as a private residence (for several owners), as a funeral home, and is now the headquarters of the Chicago Urban League. The present owners are sensitive to the historic value of the architecture as well as the association significance the building has with the Swift family. They have adapted the building to their needs while retaining the structure without any destructive alteration. It is their intent that the building continue in this manner.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400 1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500 1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600 1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800 1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1892

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Swift house was built in 1892 during the period just prior to the Columbian Exposition when the south side of Chicago was experiencing an enormous expansion of high quality private residential construction. A careful review of contemporary architectural publications would indicate that it may have been designed by the architectural firm of Willett & Pashley who, beginning in the early 1880's, had a large successful practice in Chicago. A number of their published designs are very similar in scale and detail to the Swift mansion. Other obvious influences are the work of H. H. Richardson in Chicago and elsewhere, particularly the John J. Glessner and the Franklin McVeagh houses insofar as detailing is concerned.

The interior plan provides a high degree of privacy for virtually every room with primary circulation both vertical and horizontal being provided at the north central portion of the house. Servants circulation was originally separate from family space and remains so today. The building is structurally sound. It uses heavy masonry exterior walls, one major bearing wall on the interior with minor bearing walls throughout. Heavy timber floor framing is also used throughout. The house did have an early central heating system similar to that used by Richardson.

The first owners were Mr. & Mrs. Edward Morris. Mrs. Morris was the daughter of the late Gustavus F. Swift, founder of Swift and Company. Mr. Morris was the president and treasurer of Morris and Company, one of the three leading meat packers in the world along with Armour and Swift. Thus, this marriage resulted in two highly competitive families, and their respective firms, gaining an even tighter monopoly on an important segment of Chicago's economy. Mr. Morris apparently never participated directly in the affairs of Swift and Company although he was extremely active in both the social and business world of Chicago. He died in 1913 and left an estate valued at \$40,000,000.

The Swift house is an excellent example of the kind of large Richardsonian residence which so admirably met the requirements of Chicago's very rich during the final decade of the 19th Century. The fact that it was the home of not one but two of the immediate family of Gustavus F. Swift plus one of his major competitors adds to its historic interest. Today it remains for all to see as it serves as the headquarters of a major institution, The Chicago Urban League.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.8518

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property contained in the east $\frac{1}{2}$ of blk 2, except the south 75 feet. (as measured on the east line) and except that part thereof dedicated for an alley in B.F.Smith's subdivision of part of the west $\frac{1}{2}$ of south $\frac{1}{2}$ of ec 3, Township 38 north, range 14, east of the 3rd Principle Meridian, in Cook County, IL.. It consists of land 230' x 161.3' with improvements thereon.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME | TITLE

Wilbert R. Hasbrouck, FAIA

ORGANIZATION

HISTORIC RESOURCES

DATE

September 26, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

1900 South Prairie Avenue

TELEPHONE

(312) 225-3189

CITY OR TOWN

Chicago,

STATE

Illinois 60616

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FDR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST.

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered JUN 9 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Stinson Memorial Library	Anna Union County
Swift House	Chicago Cook County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Paul M. Simon
Honorable Ralph H. Metcalfe

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION